

48 OFFICIAL USE ONLY

COMMENT ON BLOC PROPAGANDA--ATTACK ON CAPTIVE NATIONS WEEK

1. VOLUME AND BEAMING OF MOSCOW COMMENT

MOSCOW'S ATTACK ON THE PRESIDENT'S DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK BEGINNING JULY 19 AS "CAPTIVE NATIONS WEEK" HAS SO FAR BEEN RELATIVELY LIMITED IN VOLUME, SUGGESTING THAT THERE WILL BE NO MAJOR PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN ON THE ISSUE. IN THE FIRST TWO DAYS OF COMMENT, 37 COMMENTARIES WERE BROADCAST (30 ON JULY 22, SEVEN ON JULY 23), CONTRASTING FOR EXAMPLE WITH A TOTAL OF 72 ON THE GENEVA FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE DURING A SIMILAR TWO-DAY PERIOD THIS WEEK. THE FIGURES DO NOT, HOWEVER, INCLUDE KHRUSHCHEV'S WIDELY BROADCAST LUZHNIKI STADIUM SPEECH OF 23 JULY, WHICH COMMENTED ON THE ISSUE.

COMMENT HAS BEEN BEAMED WORLDWIDE, TO BLOC AND NON-BLOC AUDIENCES. NO COMMENTARY HAS BEEN CARRIED IN THE SOVIET HOME SERVICE, ALTHOUGH KHRUSHCHEV'S 23 JULY SPEECH WAS BROADCAST TO THE HOME AUDIENCE. EAST EUROPEAN AUDIENCES HEAR AT MOST ONE COMMENTARY EACH. FOUR COMMENTARIES HAVE BEEN BROADCAST IN ENGLISH TO NORTH AMERICA, MORE THAN TO ANY OTHER AUDIENCE.

2. CHRONOLOGY OF MOSCOW REACTION

MOSCOW'S INITIAL REACTION CAME IN THE FORM OF A JULY 18 TASS DISPATCH FROM WASHINGTON TERMING THE PRESIDENT'S DECLARATION OF JULY 17A "PROVOCATIVE" AND "COLD WAR" GESTURE, ODDLY TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY KHRUSHCHEV'S SIMILAR REMARKS TO WESTERN NEWSMEN AT A RECEPTION AT THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN WARSAW ON 21 JULY--REMARKS NOT PUBLICIZED BY MOSCOW. ON 22 JULY PRAVDA PUBLISHED ITS RELATIVELY MILD ARTICLE ON THE ISSUE BY "OBSERVER." THIS ARTICLE WAS BROADCAST TO VARIOUS NON-SOVIET AUDIENCES A TOTAL OF 31 TIMES ON JULY 22 AND 23--NOT UNUSUAL FOR A PRAVDA EDITORIAL OR OBSERVER ARTICLE ON A FOREIGN AFFAIRS TOPIC.

ALSO ON 22 JULY A TALK BY VIKTOROV--EVINCING PAIN RATHER THAN ANGER--WAS BROADCAST TWICE IN ENGLISH TO NORTH AMERICA. ON 23 JULY, BELOBROV'S TALK (ITEM 24 OF TODAY'S WIRE FILE) WAS BROADCAST IN ALBANIAN, HUNGARIAN, RUMANIAN, AND MANDARIN. ON THE SAME DATE, KHRUSHCHEV'S INDIGNANT REMARKS ON THE SUBJECT AT LUZHNIKI STADIUM WERE BROADCAST WORLDWIDE (WIRE ITEMS 34 AND 35 OF YESTERDAY'S FILE). NONE OF THIS COMMENT REITERATES THE PRAVDA OBSERVER'S VEILED ATTACK ON THE PURPOSES OF THE U.S. EXHIBITION IN MOSCOW: "PERHAPS CERTAIN AMERICAN LEADERS PLAN TO INCLUDE THE U.S. EXHIBITION IN MOSCOW IN THE PROGRAM OF CEREMONIES AND ACTIVITIES MARKING THEIR PROPAGANDISTIC CAPTIVE NATIONS WEEK."

3. OTHER BLOC COMMENT

PEKING'S REACTION HAS SO FAR BEEN LIMITED TO AN NCNA REPORT ON KHRUSHCHEV'S LUZHNIKI STADIUM SPEECH. EAST EUROPEAN REACTION HAS BEEN MODERATELY HEAVY AND PREDICTABLY SHARP, WITH WARSAW THE MOST RESTRAINED. SEE, FOR EXAMPLE, ITEMS 26 AND 27 OF TODAY'S FILE.